

## Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs



### 2012 Fulbright Foreign Student Enrichment Seminars

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) sponsors a series of enrichment seminars across the United States as part of its flagship Fulbright Program. These enrichment seminars, an integral part of the Fulbright experience, benefit Fulbright Foreign Students and support the Fulbright Program's overall mission – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Institute of International Education (IIE) administers the enrichment seminar program under the guidance of and in consultation with ECA.

#### 2012 Traditional Enrichment Seminars for First-Year Fulbright Students: "U.S. Politics and Elections"

Traditional enrichment seminars bring together approximately 140 first-year Fulbright Foreign Students and six recently returned Fulbright U.S. Student alumni in nine cities across the United States. In 2012, the 1,260 participants hail from countries in all world regions.

Through the enrichment seminars, Fulbright Foreign Students develop a better understanding of contemporary life and culture, policy formulation and public attitudes of nationally and globally important issues in the United States. The enrichment seminars also allow participants to meet and network with local citizens in each seminar city and with other Fulbrighters from around the world who are studying in the United States.

Each year, the seminar highlights a topic of national significance which also has implications for the global community. This year's theme – "U.S. Politics and Elections: Democracy in Action" – will explore democracy and the electoral process in the United States.

Over four days, students will learn about how issues such as civil rights and diversity, the role of the media, U.S. history, regional politics and voter mobilization influence the way Americans express their democratic rights. They will participate in interactive discussions with subject matter experts, volunteer in local community service projects, engage in group workshops and explore the unique characteristics of each seminar city that shape its local and national elections.

#### Seminar Host Cities and Dates

Atlanta, GA	February 9-12
Nashville, TN	February 16-19
Sacramento, CA	February 23-26
Baltimore, MD	March 1-4
Denver, CO	March 8-11
Chicago, IL	March 8-11
Washington, DC	Mar. 28-Apr. 1
St. Louis, MO	April 12-15
Philadelphia, PA	April 19-22

#### Elements of Each Enrichment Seminar

Each seminar incorporates the following to connect Fulbright Foreign Students better to the seminar theme and host city:

- *Panel Discussions and Presentations by Experts* – Subject matter experts and leaders in government, non-profit organizations, the media, academia, and the private sector discuss best practices in interactive sessions with the students.
- *Community Service Projects* – Fulbright students work alongside local residents on specific community projects in neighborhoods, public parks and schools to learn about civic participation in American society and give back to the host city.
- *Home Hospitality Evenings* – Fulbright students gather in homes of members of the host city community for a special evening to interact directly with Americans and learn first-hand about unique cultural features of American life.
- *Election Simulation Exercise* – Each seminar will allow students to apply the concepts discussed by speakers and panelists in an election simulation exercise. This exercise helps seminar participants connect the seminar topic, the unique host city's perspective on the topic and the topic's implications for future projects in their home countries.
- *Cultural Events and Activities* – Fulbrighters explore the host city's unique cultural heritage at local points of interest.

#### Traditional Enrichment Seminars Selection Process

All eligible first-year Fulbright Foreign Students in any field of study were invited to apply for a seminar placement in fall 2011. Students were randomly assigned a seminar through a process that takes into account country representation, gender balance, diversity of fields of study and U.S. host campuses.

*For more information on Fulbright Enrichment Seminars, visit <http://fulbright.state.gov/enrichment>.  
For general information on the Fulbright Program, visit <http://fulbright.state.gov>.*

